

50 01 13

Title: Wolf Trapper Education

The Problem:

After years of diligence and frustration, citizens now have the opportunity to manage gray wolves in Wisconsin. Regulated trapping is an important aspect of harvest management and in 2012, 53 % of the public harvest occurred by licensed trappers.

However, this did not occur without concern and protest by various user groups, especially upland bird hunters and citizens concerned about their dogs coming into contact with traps.

Although basic trapper education has been mandatory since 1992, wolf trapping is new, specialized and uses large traps. For this reason the Wisconsin Trappers Association, in cooperation with the WDNR entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that identified responsibilities and duties of each organization. This effort is tailored after the highly successful Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program.

Based on voluntary wolf trapper education workshops provided last year, it was evident from comments and experiences that this course should be mandatory for anyone planning to trap wolves in Wisconsin. Other states such as Idaho and Montana already require mandatory wolf trapper certification.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Portage County on April 8(?), 2013 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change requiring wolf trapper certification.

Name of Author: John Irwin

Name of Organization: Wisconsin Trappers Association

Address: 2102 Cty HH

City, State, Zip code: Junction City, WI, 54443

Name of the County Introducing In: Portage

